

## Seattle Human Rights Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 7, 2012, 6:00–8:00 p.m.  
City Hall - Boards and Commissions Room

**Commissioners Present:** Damien Carter, Nika Dahlbacka, Joshua Marshall, Marsha Mavunkel, Mariah Ortiz, Merri Ann Osborne, Mica Powers, Greg Ramirez, Roslyn Solomon

**Commissioners by Phone:** Marty Penner

**Commissioners Absent:** Jessica Andrade, Jesse Aspuria, Andrea Negrete, Michael Plengrat, Christopher Stearns, Jennifer Yogi

**SOCR Staff Present:** Felicia Yearwood, Michael Chin

**Guests:** Four members of the public

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 by Joshua Marshall

**Approval of Minutes:** May 2012 minutes were approved as amended

**SOCR report:** Michael Chin

- SOCR is undergoing an annual HUD performance review
- Accessibility First Housing Training was held with approximately 50 attendees
- Currently selecting a new Investigator
- The second comment period for the Paid Sick and Safe Time regulations will close soon
- Commissioners are invited to participate in the Pride Parade and tabling on June 24<sup>th</sup>

**Human Rights Analysis Tool:** Final report was distributed. The tool is designed to help the Commission prioritize its work and build its message. It will also be useful as an orientation tool for new Commissioners. Marty Penner thanked Hazelruth Adams for her excellent work.

**UW Bothell Students:** Two students wrote reports on the right to food, which were distributed to Commissioners. Two students researched vendor codes of conduct and will follow up with Kristen Beifus of the Washington Fair Trade Coalition.

## **Workshop on DOJ Report**

The Commission's report made three key points:

- The Office of Professional Accountability Review Board should have investigative, subpoena, and enforceable decision making power
- Stakeholder participation should be maximized
- Data should be gathered to establish baselines for analysis of discriminatory policing

Talking points were emailed to Commissioners. Discussion ensued regarding the appropriateness of using international human rights standards to address the local issue of police accountability. The Universal Declaration tracks the U.S. Declaration of Independence. Internationally recognized standards, though they have global reach, must be effectuated locally. The expense of providing stakeholders an opportunity for real participation is vastly outweighed by the alternative long range cost in terms of deteriorated community-police relations.

Volunteers to meet with City Councilmembers on this issue: Greg Ramirez, Nika Dahlbacka, and Marsha Mavunkel.

**MOTION: To issue three resolutions seeking action on the recommendations in the Commission's 2011 Report on Police Accountability. ACTION: Passed**

## **Committee Reports:**

### **Executive:**

- SHRC is co-sponsoring a reception for a delegation of twenty-five International Human Rights Activists and Professionals at City Hall on Thursday June 28<sup>th</sup> 5:30 p.m. All Commissioners are invited. Co-sponsors are the World Affairs Council's International Visitor Program, Councilmember Bruce Harrell, and SOCR.
- Budget meeting with Councilmember Tim Burgess, and work plan presentation to Mayor McGinn on June 28<sup>th</sup> also.
- Councilmember Harrell has a draft ordinance, "Job Opportunity . . ." which would preclude employers from considering certain arrest and conviction records in hiring decisions.
- Joshua attended Race, the Power of an Illusion training with SPD
- Councilmember Harrell asked the Commission to co-host a forum on police accountability with the SPD. Chris has contacted the SPD leadership to begin planning.

**History Project:** Jung completed document review and conducted face-to-face interviews with former Commissioners and SOCR Directors. The report is in draft form, with completion expected in the fall. Merri Ann Osborne commended Jung on her thoroughness and persistence in researching the Commission's history.

**Nominating:** Twenty-nine applications have been received, with one additional expected. Applications will be reviewed by Greg, Andrea, and Marsha. Joshua volunteered to sit on the interview panel.

**Appeals:** Jennifer, Andrea, and Joshua will serve on panel for June 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Human Rights Day:** Second committee meeting held; theme will focus on youth

**Vendor Code of Conduct:** circulated "Doing Business with the City of Seattle," from City Purchasing and Contracting Services.

**Bias Crimes Forum:** Marsha held the first planning committee meeting and attended the Bias Crimes Forum in Bellevue. The Seattle Forum will be formatted to provide more opportunity for dialog.

### **Old Business**

Caring Across Generations: Two versions of a resolution supporting the concepts were distributed.

**MOTION: to appoint a small committee with the authority to (1) reconcile the two resolutions in support of Caring Across Generations and (2) issue the final resolution on behalf of the full Commission. ACTION: Passed**

Commission logo and terms of office tabled

**Adjourned at 8:00 p.m.**